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Appln. No. 09/696,114 Amendment dated March 28, 2006 Reply to Office Action of January 4, 2006

Attorney Docket No. 00745/LH

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant

: Toru KOBAYASHI et al.

Serial No.

: 09/696,114

Filed

: October 25, 2000

For

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AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR 1.116 EXPEDITED PROCEDURE - GROUP 3600

Mail Stop AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

SIR:

This is responsive to the Final Office Action dated January 4, 2006, the term for response to which expires April 4, 2006.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 18 of this paper.

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION TO NO. 571-273-8300

TOTAL PAGES: 21

I hereby certify that this paper is being facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents Office on the date noted below

Dated: March 28. 2006

Marillyn Sturts

In the event that this Paper is late filed, and the necessary petition for extension of time is not filed concurrently herewith, please consider this as a Petition for the requisite extension of time, and to the extension tendered by check attached hereto, authorization to charge the extension fee to Account No. 06-1378.